

## Indonesia-US Interfaith Dialogue 25–27 January 2010 | Jakarta, Indonesia

*“We are committed to taking common action on urgent challenges that confront us all. These challenges respect no borders.”*

**—Jakarta Declaration of Shared Concerns and Commitments**

**Left.** From the Opening Ceremony at Gedung Pancasila, (left to right) Mr. Pradeep Ramamurthy (Senior Director for Global Engagement, White House), H.E. Dr. Marty Natalegawa (Indonesian Foreign Minister), H.E. Cameron Hume (U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia), H.E. K.H. Hasyim Muzadi (Nahdlatul Ulama), H.E. Dr. Din Syamsuddin (Muhammadiyah), and Dr. William F. Vendley.

**Right.** Muslim and Hindu Indonesian women religious representatives join American delegates, Ms. Jean Duff (Center for Interfaith Action on Global Poverty), Ms. Afeefa Syeed (USAID), and Ms. Zeenat Rahman (Interfaith Youth Core) in the closing press conference.

The Republic of Indonesia and the United States formed a new partnership to advance multi-religious cooperation. This partnership was developed at the initiative of Indonesia, the country with the world’s largest Islamic population and a multi-religious national identity. It was welcomed by the White House as an example of the positive engagement of religions called for by President Obama in his speech in Cairo.

*Religions for Peace*—as a global multi-religious organization lead by senior religious representatives from all continents—was invited to facilitate the event that inaugurated the partnership in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 25-27 January 2010.

Religious leaders and civil society actors from Indonesia and the United States were joined by other Asian religious leaders from Cambodia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

The more than seventy participants committed to acting together to end poverty, promote education on religious diversity, protect the environment, and advance good governance. They agreed to tackle these challenges by advancing advocacy, promoting education, and taking other needed actions through multi-religious partnerships that engage both

national religious leaders and their communities’ grassroots.

Indonesian religious leaders—the day after the consultation—formed a powerfully representative Interreligious Council of Indonesia. **H.E. K.H. Hasyim Muzadi**, General Chairman of Nahdlatul Ulama and a Co-President of the *Religions for Peace* World Council, and **H.E. Dr. Din Syamsuddin**, President of Muhammadiyah and a *Religions for Peace* Honorary President and the Moderator of the Asian Conference of *Religions for Peace*, provided leadership in forming the Council.

**Dr. William F. Vendley**, Secretary General of *Religions for Peace* said, “We believe that a key to good program partnerships around shared objectives is a respect for the unique identities, mandates, and capacities of all partners. This dialogue—which involved both governmental and religious representatives—took those factors into account. It represents a healthy step in developing partnerships among religious communities and between governments around shared concerns.”

For more information on the event, including a link to speeches, outcome documents, and pictures, please visit:

<http://religionsforpeace.org/news/press/building-collaborative.html>.

